

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205954
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JTWINAM:SEB:TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S-O:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205954

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PPDC, MU, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER SOONEST FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT TO SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID. THERE WILL BE NO
SIGNED ORIGINAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "YOUR HIGHNESS: I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU
SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT
CAMP DAVID.

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT
SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION
TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO
ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.
WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO
ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED.

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THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH
WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE
REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT

AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW
POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS
IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE
PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE
THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN
IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT
AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN
AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE
PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER
OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF
THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS
IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN
NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN
AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD
AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE
AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.
SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES
TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE
NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT
ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
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THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS
WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION
TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME
AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREE-
MENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE
FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUE'. I PLAN TO DO
EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE
ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR
TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A
MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I
HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL
SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER." END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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